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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter GOOSEN (South Africa)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session in accordance with the request on behalf of the European Union contained in a letter dated 19 August 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/193).

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 13 October, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 53 to 66, 68 to 72 and 153. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd to 10th meetings, from 17 to 24 October (see A/C.1/49/PV.3-10). Structured discussions of specific subjects on the adopted thematic approach took place from 25 to 27 and on 31 October and 1 November. Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place at the 12th to 16th meetings, on 3, 4, 7 and 9 November. Action on draft resolutions on those items took place at the 19th to 25th meetings, from 14 to 18 November (see A/C.1/49/PV.19-25).

4. In connection with item 153, the First Committee had before it the following document: letter dated 19 August 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/49/193).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/49/L.13

5. On 31 October, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zimbabwe submitted a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction" (A/C.1/49/L.13), which was later also sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Ireland, Nicaragua, Oman, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Singapore, Spain, Swaziland, Turkey and Turkmenistan. The draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Hungary at an informal meeting on 1 November.

6. At the 19th meeting, on 14 November, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement concerning the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (see A/C.1/49/PV.19).

7. At its 19th meeting on 14 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/49/L.13 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Recalling also, in particular, its resolution 46/35 A, adopted without a vote on 6 December 1991, in which it welcomed, inter alia, the establishment, proceeding from the recommendations of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, 1/ of an ad hoc group of governmental experts open to all States parties to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint,

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1/ See BWC/CONF.III/23.

Recalling further its resolution 48/65, adopted without a vote on 16 December 1993, in which it commended the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint, 2/ agreed to by consensus at its last meeting at Geneva on 24 September 1993,

Noting with satisfaction that there are more than one hundred and thirty States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, 3/ including all the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Third Review Conference, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference, 4/ and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention related to scientific and technological cooperation 5/ and the related provisions of the Final Document of the Third Review Conference, 1/ the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts and the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held from 9 to 30 September 1994, 6/

1. Notes that a majority of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction requested the depositary Powers to convene a special conference in order to consider the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts;

2. Welcomes the final report of the Special Conference, adopted by consensus on 30 September 1994, in which the States parties agreed to establish an ad hoc group, open to all States parties, whose objective shall be to consider appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and draft proposals to strengthen the Convention, to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument to be submitted for the consideration of the States parties;

3. Welcomes the information and data provided to date and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of

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2/ BWC/CONF.III/VEREX/9 and Corr.1.

3/ Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

4/ BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.

5/ See resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex, article X.

6/ See BWC/SPCONF/L.4.

information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Powers of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Third Review Conference, as well as the decisions contained in the Final Report of the Special Conference, including all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts;

5. Calls upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and also calls upon those other States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".